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Message Text

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ACTION OIC-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 STR-08 EB-11 ABF-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 RSC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1998

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, GATT
SUBJECT: MEETING OF GATT BUDGET COMMITTEE, OCTOBER 15-19

REF: (A) STATE 194751; (B) STATE 198750

1. AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 15-19 MEETING OF GATT COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FINANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES CONSIDERATION OF 1972 AUDITED ACCOUNTS, 1973 BUDGET, AND 1974 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR GATT AND ITC (GATT/AIR/1041, SEPTEMBER 11, 1973, COPY POUCHED IO-SMITH).

2. SECRETARIAT ALSO SUBMITTING PROPOSAL ON GATT ACCOMMODATIONS (SPEC (73)56 SEPTEMBER 24, 1973, COPY MAILED IO-SMITH), WHICH IS DRAFT LEASE FOR 1976 OCCUPANCY OF ILO BUILDING IN LIEU OF ALL CURRENTLY OCCUPIED GATT BUILDINGS. PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGE CLAIMED BY SECRETARIAT (VON HOLZEN) IS ELIMINATION OF RELIANCE ON OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' CONFERENCE ROOMS. TENTATIVE ANNUAL RENT ESTIMATE IS SWF 1,080,000; RENOVATION "IN VICINITY" OF SWF 5,000,000.

3. MISSION HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS OF GROWING DISSATISFACTION AMONG SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL ABOUT SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES DUE SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION
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IN TAKE-HOME PAY CAUSED BY DEPRECIATION OF

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DOLLAR. THIS ISSUE NOT YET REFLECTED IN OFFICIAL
BUDGET PROPOSALS OR LINKED TO SPECIFIC TIME FRAME.
ONLY DOCUMENT REFERENCE IS OBLIQUE MENTION ON PAGE 30
OF 1974 BUDGET ESTIMATES (L/3880, 26 JULY 1973). MISSION
IS AWARE OF IMPRACTICABILITY OF MAKING QUICK ASSESSMENT
OF ANY NEW BUDGET PROPOSAL WHICH MAY BE PUT FORWARD TO
COVER SALARY AND ALLOWANCE QUESTION. THIS MAY INVOLVE
LARGE SUMS OF MONEY, WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER ORGANI-
ZATIONS (THERE IS REPORTEDLY A SALARY AND ALLOWANCES
RESOLUTION BEFORE THE UNGA) IN GENEVA AND ELSEWHERE, AND
ACCORDINGLY ANY IMMEDIATE STATEMENT OF APPROVAL BY THE
U.S. IS PRESUMABLY OUT OF QUESTION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW
OF IMPORTANCE OF GATT STAFF MORALE FOR UPCOMING MTNS WE
SUGGEST IF WOULD BE UNWISE TO TAKE FLATLY NEGATIVE
POSITION IF PROPOSAL IS INTRODUCED. INSTEAD, WE SUGGEST
USING LATENESS OF PROPOSAL AS REASON FOR DEFERRAL OF
ANY ACTION PENDING STUDY OF SOUNDNESS OF RATIONALE
AND IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

4. OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE AS YET FORESEE NO MAJOR
CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AT MEETING. CANADA DEL EXPRESSED
MINOR CONCERN OVER FUNDS GOING TO GATT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
IN LIEU OF GENERAL DIVISION, AND FRENCH DEL SHARES CON-
CERN EXPRESSED IN REFTEL (B) RE COLLOQUIUM AND
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE. GENERAL INCLINATION APPEARS TO BE
TO GO ALONG WITH OVERALL BUDGET FIGURE OF SWF 24,520,000.BASSIN

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